

**CLAIMS**

I/We claim:

1. A method to format a content item, comprising:  
5 converting the content item embodied in a text file into an  
indiscriminate markup file in at least one processor based system; and  
transforming the content item embodied in the indiscriminate  
markup file into a discriminate markup file in the at least one processor based  
system, the discriminate markup file including a number of discriminating tags  
10 that are associated with a number of content elements.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of converting the  
content item embodied in the text file into the indiscriminate markup file in at  
least one processor based system further comprises associating a pair of  
15 indiscriminate tags with each one of a number of lines of the text file.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transforming the  
content item embodied in the indiscriminate markup file into the discriminate  
markup file further comprises:  
20 providing a discrimination stylesheet that includes a set of  
discrimination instructions to transform the indiscriminate markup file into the  
discriminate markup file; and  
applying the discrimination stylesheet and the indiscriminate  
markup file to a transformation processor, thereby implementing the set of  
25 discrimination instructions.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of providing a  
discrimination stylesheet that includes a set of discrimination instructions to  
transform the indiscriminate markup file into the discriminate markup file  
30 further comprises providing the set of discrimination instructions to write each  
of the number of content elements in the indiscriminate markup file into the  
discriminate markup file with a pair of associated discriminating tags.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of providing the discrimination stylesheet further comprises:

providing a heuristics markup file that sets forth a relative position of the content elements of the content item embodied in the

5 indiscriminate markup file;

providing a heuristics stylesheet that sets forth a set of heuristic instructions to translate the heuristics markup file into the discrimination stylesheet; and

10 applying the heuristics markup file and the heuristics stylesheet to a transformation processor to generate the discrimination stylesheet.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of associating the heuristics markup file with the text file.

15 7. A program embodied on a computer readable medium to format a content item, comprising:

code that converts the content item embodied in a text file into an indiscriminate markup file; and

20 code that transforms the content item embodied in the indiscriminate markup file into a discriminate markup file, the discriminate markup file including a number of discriminating tags that are associated with a number of content elements.

25 8. The program embodied on a computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein the code that converts the content item embodied in the text file into the indiscriminate markup file further comprises code that associates a pair of indiscriminate tags with each one of a number of lines of the text file.

30 9. The program embodied on a computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein the code that transforms the content item embodied in the indiscriminate markup file into the discriminate markup file further comprises:  
a transformation processor; and

code that applies a discrimination stylesheet and the indiscriminate markup file to the transformation processor, the discrimination stylesheet including a set of discrimination instructions to transform the indiscriminate markup file into the discriminate markup file.

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10. The program embodied on a computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the set of discrimination instructions further comprises a number of instructions that write each of the number of content elements in the indiscriminate markup file into the discriminate markup file with a pair of associated discriminating tags.

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11. The program embodied on a computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the code that transforms the content item embodied in the indiscriminate markup file into the discriminate markup file further comprises code that applies a heuristics markup file and a heuristics stylesheet to the transformation processor to generate the discrimination stylesheet, wherein the heuristics markup file sets forth a relative position of the content elements of the content item embodied in the indiscriminate markup file, and, the heuristics stylesheet sets forth a set of heuristics instructions to transform the heuristics markup file into the discrimination stylesheet.

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12. The program embodied on a computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the code that transforms the content item embodied in the indiscriminate markup file into the discriminate markup file further comprises code that associates the heuristics markup file with the text file.

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13. A formatting system, comprising:  
a processor circuit having a processor and a memory;  
a content item embodied in a text file stored in the memory;  
formatting logic stored in the memory and executable by the processor, the formatting logic comprising:

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logic that converts the content item embodied in the text file into an indiscriminate markup file; and

logic that transforms the content item embodied in the indiscriminate markup file into a discriminate markup file, the discriminate markup file including a number of discriminating tags that are associated with a number of content elements.

14. The formatting system of claim 13, wherein the logic that converts the content item embodied in the text file into the indiscriminate markup file further comprises logic that associates a pair of indiscriminate tags with each one of a number of lines of the text file.

15. The formatting system of claim 13, wherein the logic that transforms the content item embodied in the indiscriminate markup file into the discriminate markup file further comprises:  
a transformation processor; and  
logic that applies a discrimination stylesheet and the indiscriminate markup file to the transformation processor, the discrimination stylesheet including a set of discrimination instructions to transform the indiscriminate markup file into the discriminate markup file.

16. The formatting system of claim 15, further comprising:  
a heuristics markup file stored in the memory, the heuristics markup file setting forth a relative position of the content elements of the content item embodied in the indiscriminate markup file;  
a heuristics stylesheet stored in the memory, the heuristics stylesheet setting forth a set of heuristics instructions to transform the heuristics markup file into the discrimination stylesheet; and  
wherein the formatting logic further comprises logic that applies the heuristics markup file and the heuristics stylesheet to the transformation processor to generate the discrimination stylesheet.

17. A formatting system, comprising:  
means for converting a content item embodied in a text file into  
an indiscriminate markup file; and

- 5 means for transforming the content item embodied in the  
indiscriminate markup file into a discriminate markup file, the discriminate  
markup file including a number of discriminating tags that are associated with  
a number of content elements.

- 10 18. The formatting system of claim 17, wherein the means for  
converting the content item embodied in the text file into the indiscriminate  
markup file further comprises means for associating a pair of indiscriminate  
tags with each one of a number of lines of the text file.

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